

Section M
Evaluation Factors for Award

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M.1 DOE-M-1001 Proposal Evaluation – General

The offeror(s) selected for award will be the responsible offeror(s) whose proposal(s) is (are) determined to be the best overall value to the Government. Proposals received in response to the Solicitation will be evaluated using the evaluation criteria set forth in this section.

The proposal preparation instructions contained in Section L are designed to provide guidance to offerors concerning the type and depth of information the Government considers necessary to conduct an informed evaluation of each proposal. If the proposal is determined to be so grossly and obviously deficient as to be totally unacceptable on its face or to contain prices that are inordinately high or unrealistically low, the proposal may be eliminated from further consideration before a detailed evaluation is performed. For example, a proposal will be deemed unacceptable if it does not represent a reasonable initial effort to address the essential requirements of the solicitation, or if it clearly demonstrates that the offeror does not understand the requirements of the solicitation. In the event a proposal is rejected, a notice will be sent to the offeror stating the reason(s) that the proposal will not be considered for further evaluation.

The Government intends to evaluate proposals and award a contract without discussions with offerors (except clarifications as described in FAR 15.306(a)). The Government reserves the right to visit and inspect the proposed site of the work. The Government reserves the right to conduct discussions if the Contracting Officer later determines discussions are necessary. Exceptions to or deviations from the terms and conditions of the solicitation may make the offer unacceptable for award without discussions. In such a case, the Government may make an award without discussions to another offeror that did not propose such exceptions or deviations.

When the term “offeror” is used, it is defined as a single contractor or a contractor and any proposed teaming partners/subcontractors, as applicable. In conducting its evaluation of proposals, the Government may seek information from any source it deems appropriate to obtain or validate information regarding an offeror's past performance.

The Government will evaluate risk as part of the evaluation of all criteria.

The Government will not evaluate offerors' answers to the hypothetical problem solving exercise during oral presentation.

M.2. DOE-M-1003 Basis for Award

DOE intends to award one contract to the responsible offeror whose proposal is responsive to the Solicitation and determined to be the best value and most advantageous to the Government. Selection of the best value to the Government will be achieved through a process of evaluating the strengths and/or weaknesses of each offeror's proposal in accordance with the evaluation factors in the Solicitation.

In determining the best value to the Government, the Capabilities and Approach Evaluation Criteria are significantly more important than the probable Cost and proposed Fee. The Government is more concerned with obtaining a superior Capabilities and Approach proposal than making an award at the lowest probable Cost and proposed Fee. However, the Government will not make an award at a cost/price premium it considers disproportionate to the benefits associated with the evaluated superiority of one Capabilities and Approach proposal over another. Thus, to the extent that offerors' Capabilities and Approach proposals are evaluated as close or similar in merit, the probable Cost and proposed Fee is more likely to be the determining factor.

M.3 Capabilities and Approach Evaluation Criteria (DOE-M-1005G Organizational Structure and Approach)

The offeror's proposed organizational structure and approach will be evaluated based on its potential effectiveness and efficiency to successfully manage and execute the requirements of the Performance Work Statement (PWS) in accordance with the offeror's proposed approach to execute the work. This includes the evaluation of the internal organization of the offeror's own personnel, other entities that will perform specific work under the contract, such as subcontractors or any other performing entities, and the offeror's corporate resources.

In addition, the extent of small business participation, including small disadvantaged businesses, in performing work (extent, variety, and complexity) that will contribute to the overall successful performance of the work will be evaluated.

The Capabilities and Approach evaluation criteria are listed below. In terms of relative weight, the criteria "Strategic Vision for ORISE as a DOE Institute," "Leadership, Management, and Direction," and "Program Implementation" are of equal importance. The remaining criteria (Relevant Experience, Relevant Past Performance, Transition, and Offeror's Commitments) are of approximately equal importance to each other.

When combined, the remaining criteria (Relevant Experience, Relevant Past Performance, Transition, and Offeror's Commitments) are of less importance than the "Strategic Vision for ORISE as a DOE Institute" criterion. Likewise, when combined, these four criteria are less important than the "Leadership, Management, and Direction"

criterion. Finally, when combined, the four remaining criteria are less important than the “Program Implementation” criterion.

Within each criterion, subcriteria (as applicable) are of approximately equal weight.

A. Strategic Vision for ORISE as a DOE Institute.

1. The Government will evaluate the extent to which the offeror has articulated a comprehensive strategic vision for ORISE that will enable the Institute to achieve DOE goals as articulated in the Performance Work Statement.
2. The Government will evaluate the extent to which the offeror’s plan for achieving its vision demonstrates the capability to leverage limited resources in developing the Institute’s capabilities and delivering outcomes consistent with DOE’s mission goals as articulated in the Performance Work Statement.
3. For each proposed key activity or milestone, The Government will evaluate the offeror’s proposed metrics/measurements of success. The purpose of this evaluation is to determine the extent to which the offeror’s proposed metrics are effective measures of the milestone’s achievement.
4. The Government will evaluate the extent to which the offeror’s proposed use of available and newly-developed data across the work scope areas will achieve positive impacts on the DOE mission and promote the continuous improvement of ORISE.

B. Leadership, Management, and Direction.

1. **Individuals’ Contribution.** The Government will use the oral presentation and written material (resumes) to evaluate the qualifications (credentials, technical and leadership capabilities, relevant experience, and ability to effectively communicate and collaborate) of key personnel proposed for the ORISE contract in terms of their proposed roles in the accomplishment of the PWS, and whether these qualifications and roles bring value to ORISE and will have positive impacts on the offeror’s ability to overcome barriers and challenges affecting accomplishment of the work. The Government will also evaluate the length of proposed key persons’ commitment to the contract. The evaluation will include a review of the consistency between oral presentations and the written proposal.
2. **Team Evaluation.** The Government will evaluate the extent to which the leadership team, as a unit, and proposed leadership team organization will

enhance the offeror's ability to overcome barriers and challenges affecting accomplishment of the PWS.

C. Program Implementation

1. Government will evaluate the comprehensiveness, innovativeness and feasibility of the offeror's approach to efficiently and effectively managing and executing the contract requirements so as to achieve success in all areas of the work scope.
2. The Government will evaluate the offeror's plan for the use of small businesses for work directly impacting the DOE mission in terms of the degree to which it is likely to make a positive impact on small/disadvantaged business as well as the DOE mission outcomes.
3. Based on the offeror's approach to the work, the Government will evaluate the offeror's proposed staff, facilities, and equipment, and plan for utilization of Government-furnished facilities and equipment. This evaluation will determine the proposal's feasibility and degree of positive mission impact, based on the offeror's approach to contract performance.

D. Relevant Experience (DOE-M-1005J, modified)

The Government will evaluate the offeror's relevant experience as follows:

1. Offeror's Experience. DOE will evaluate each offeror for its relevant experience in performing work similar in size, scope and complexity to that described in the Performance Work Statement. Size, scope and complexity are defined as follows: Size - dollar value and contract duration; scope - type of work; and complexity - performance challenges and risk.
2. Subcontractor and Other Performing Entities' Experience. DOE will also evaluate the relevant experience of each of the offeror's proposed subcontractors and any other performing entities in performing work similar in size, scope, and complexity to that described in the Performance Work Statement.
3. Work to be Performed. The experience of the offeror, proposed subcontractors, and any other performing entities will be evaluated in the context of the work proposed to be performed by each entity.

4. Newly Formed Entity. If the offeror is a newly formed entity with no experience, DOE will evaluate the experience of the parent organization(s) or the member organizations in a joint venture, LLC, or other similar entity.
5. Verification of Experience. DOE may use information obtained from reference checks to verify experience.

E. Relevant Past Performance (DOE-M-1005M, modified)

The offeror and its teaming partners, as well as proposed subcontractors' past performance will be evaluated on the basis of information furnished by the references identified in Section L and other sources on relevant contracts (including current contracts). The Government will focus on information that demonstrates both quality of performance and successful performance relative to the scope, size, complexity and duration to the work described in the solicitation. The Government will consider in its evaluation the relevance and similarity of the offeror's past performance information, the offeror's written discussion of past performance problems, and the corrective actions taken to resolve those problems. In the case of a newly formed joint venture or LLC, DOE will evaluate the past performance of each member that comprises the newly formed entity commensurate with the portion of the work being performed by each member.

The Past Performance Reference Information Form, ESH&Q Past Performance Information Form, and Past Performance Information Questionnaire identified in Section L will be used to collect this information. DOE may evaluate past performance on less than the total number of contracts/references if all the completed questionnaires are not received or are received late.

During its evaluation, the Government will review and consider all past performance information submitted by the offeror's three contract references, may contact some or all of the references provided by the offeror, and may solicit past performance information from any other available sources including the Past Performance Information Retrieval System (PPIRS) and the National Institutes of Health Contractor Performance System. References other than those identified by the offeror may be contacted and their input may be considered by the Government in the evaluation of the offeror's past performance. DOE may check readily available Government records including pertinent DOE prime contracts, or commercial references for relevant past performance information.

In the case of an offeror without a record of relevant past performance or for whom information on relevant past performance is not available, the offeror will be evaluated neither favorably nor unfavorably on past performance.

In its evaluation the Government will consider past performance in the following areas:

1. Quality of Product or Service. The Offeror's record will be evaluated on: compliance with contract requirements, safety performance, quality of deliverables, and technical excellence to include Quality awards/certifications.
2. Timeliness of Performance. The Offeror's record will be evaluated on: how well the offeror met milestones, reliability, responsiveness to technical direction, deliverables completed/submitted on time and adherence to contract schedules.
3. Cost Control. The Offeror's record will be evaluated on the degree to which it demonstrates: the ability to operate at or below budget/ceiling for the contract or task order, the use of cost efficiencies, currency, accuracy and completeness of invoices, submission of reasonably priced proposals for changes, REAs and/or claims, and overall cost performance.
4. Business Practices. The Offeror will be evaluated on the degree its record demonstrates its ability to provide: effective management, reasonable/cooperative behavior with the technical representative(s) and Contracting Officer, management and retention of key personnel, flexibility, responsiveness to inquiries, and business-like concern for the Government's interests. If the Offeror is other-than-small, the Offeror's record of small business subcontracting and the degree to which the Offeror has a record of encouraging small business participation will be evaluated.
5. Customer Satisfaction. The Offeror shall be evaluated on overall customer satisfaction
6. Safety Record. The degree to which the Offeror has conducted operations safely will be evaluated.
7. Records Security Management. The degree to which the Offeror has secured its sensitive data will be evaluated.

F. Transition Plan (DOE-M-1005S Transition)

The Government will evaluate the offeror's Transition Plan for the work and the workforce from the beginning of the transition period until assumption of full contract responsibility. The Transition Plan will be evaluated with respect to its feasibility, comprehensiveness, efficiency and effectiveness, including the extent that it provides for a smooth and orderly transition, identifies key issues and milestones, identifies potential barriers to a smooth transition, proposes solutions to the barriers identified, and minimizes impacts on continuity of operations.

G. Offeror's Commitments.

The Government will evaluate the credibility, liability to the Government, Governmental action required, and expected benefit, if any, to ORISE of the offeror's proposed commitments as defined in the Instructions (L.31 (c)(7)) entitled "Offeror's Commitments". Offerors shall only receive credit in the evaluation for commitments incorporated into the contract. No credit in the evaluation will be given for commitments(s) developed and/or funded by the United States Government unless the offeror has exclusive rights to and control of the commitment(s).

M.4 Price, Cost, and Fee Evaluation

The cost proposal will neither be point scored or adjectively rated but will be evaluated for consistency with the Capabilities and Approach Proposals and will be used in determining which proposal represents the best value to the Government. The cost evaluation is used to assess what each offeror's proposal will probably cost the Government should it be selected for award. The Government will evaluate the offeror's cost proposal, supporting data, basis of estimate, and cost assumptions to determine cost realism, cost reasonableness and the offeror's understanding of the contract requirements. Proposed costs are analyzed to determine the probable cost based upon the offeror's proposed approach.

1. The realism of the proposed cost/price; e.g., variance (if any) between proposed rates and actual/projected rates for direct and indirect costs.
2. The identification of proposed dedicated and non-dedicated exempt personnel; and the number used as the basis of the labor rate (uncompensated overtime).
3. The probable cost to the Government.
4. If ceiling limitations are involved, the maximum cost to the Government for the proposed effort.
5. Patent Royalties (if any) in accordance with FAR 52.227-6.
6. Applicable duty charges shall be included in the offered cost/price, whether or not duty free certificates are obtained.
7. The cost for use of any Government production and research property will be evaluated in accordance with FAR 45.202-1.